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Ellsberg Says Young Was Giving Fact, Not

FBI Plot Told to Ellsberg as Truth

Aide Theory

By JOHN MOULTON
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

Daniel Ellsberg said yesterday he is sure an aide to UN Ambassador Andrew Young was not merely offering a theory when he told him, "We know there was a conspiracy (to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.) and we know who did it."

Reached by telephone in Colorado where he is to stand trial today for his part in blocking a railroad to a nuclear plant near Golden, Mr. Ellsberg said, "The thing that made the strongest impression (on me) was how definite (Brady) Tyson (the Young aide) was on the main point. One hears theories all the time. I was struck by his tone of definiteness — 'We know,' he said."

In a notarized affidavit released to The News-Sentinel over the weekend by James Earl Ray's attorney, Mark Lane, Mr. Ellsberg, who gained worldwide attention by leaking the now-famed Pentagon Papers' secrets, tells of a conversation with Mr. Tyson in June.

The affidavit claims Mr. Ellsberg was

there was definitely FBI involvement in the murder and that Rep. Walter Fauntroy, chairman of the House subcommittee investigating Dr. King's assassination, has the evidence to back up the charges.

Mr. Ellsberg yesterday confirmed everything in the 38-page affidavit, which Mr. Lane says will be one of the chief pieces of evidence he will use to seek a new trial for Ray.

In the statement, Mr. Ellsberg said Mr. Tyson told him the conspirators included a group of off-duty and retired FBI agents working under the direction of the late J. Edgar Hoover, who was head of the FBI in 1968 when Dr. King was shot to death in Memphis.

"This was an astounding statement to hear from anyone, although I am used to hearing conjectures from people interested in conspiracies and assassination theories," Mr. Ellsberg said in the affidavit, which was signed and notarized in San Francisco on Oct. 20.

Mr. Ellsberg said he asked Mr. Tyson how he knew and Mr. Tyson replied, "That has turned up in Walter Fauntroy's investigation and he's told us."

Mr. Ellsberg said he did not know exactly what kind of evidence Rep. Fauntroy allegedly has. "I didn't want to press him (Tyson) too much," he said.

He said he was told the evidence was "all circumstantial but very detailed."

In the affidavit, Mr. Ellsberg said he asked Mr. Tyson if the evidence was going to be revealed at the current hear-

ings on Dr. King's assassination and was told by Mr. Tyson he did not know "just what (Rep.) Fauntroy was going to do with the information."

The affidavit, quoting Mr. Tyson, See FBI, Page A-3

says, "We don't have courtroom proof of this, of the names, it is all circumstantial evidence, although as we see it, it fits a very tight pattern. It is strong evidence."

Mr. Ellsberg described Mr. Tyson as "a very precise fellow" who made it clear what he said he knew and it was not theory.

He said he was told the evidence was "new" and discovered within the past two months.

When told Mr. Tyson said he was speculating with Mr. Ellsberg on the King's assassination, Mr. Ellsberg said, "His memory is flatly in error on that point. My memory is very precise on this and I have the highest confidence in it. He did say, 'We know who killed Martin Luther King.' He did speculate on other subjects, but not that."

"We are 80 per cent sure that we know the names of all the people who were involved," Mr. Ellsberg quoted Mr. Tyson as saying.

"There was no hint of conjecture or personal theory," Mr. Ellsberg said about the conversation. "There was the opposite. I felt I'd never heard anything like it in my life. I felt I was being told the case was solved."

Mr. Ellsberg said he thought the evi-

dence would come out at the hearings and, when it did not, he told Mr. Lane, who asked him to swear to it in the affidavit.

Rep. Fauntroy could not be reached for comment.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary for the murder of Dr. King. He has been trying to obtain a new trial, and his attorney, Mr. Lane, has repeatedly said he has new evidence which would re-

quire force that trial.

Meanwhile, Rev. Joseph Lowery of Atlanta, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said Rep. Fauntroy never told him FBI agents answering to Hoover had killed Dr. King.

"What Walter Fauntroy said to me was there were mysterious, unanswered questions involving the FBI, but he couldn't discuss what was confidential or privileged in the committee's investigation, Mr. Lowery said.

In another development, lawyer Percy Foreman, who represented Ray when he pleaded guilty to shooting Mr. King, said he is certain that Ray killed Mr. King.

"I've never had any doubt he killed Martin Luther King," the 78-year-old Houston lawyer said. "Furthermore, I've never felt anyone was acting with him." He branded Mr. Lane as "a sensation monger, a headline monger."